



News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

HB Alternative Technology Centre,
Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ.

Tel: Daytime: 01422-842121

Fax: 01422 84 31 41

info@alternativetechnology.org.uk
www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

The views expressed by individuals on the Green Page do not necessarily represent the views of the ATC.

RAIN OR SHINE...



JOHN BOGGIS, OWNER OF CROWN FISHERIES IN HEBDEN BRIDGE, is delighted with the solar water heating system he has recently installed at his home in Myholmsroyd. John benefited from a £600 grant under the pioneering Simply Solar scheme available to homeowners in Calderdale and Kirklees. Installing his own system took him about two days.

"I am very impressed with the system" said John. "Even in mid February the solar panels were heating the water up to 46 degrees Centigrade – much better than I had expected for this time of year. Anybody with a bit of DIY nous could comfortably install a system like this. It should save me up to 70% or maybe even more of my hot water bills every year. I am really pleased with it"

So far there have been over 60 installations under the Simply Solar scheme, some DIY like John's but mostly professional installations, which benefit from a £700 grant. For more information about Simply Solar ring 0800 0527496 and for details about the Solar Club which provides training to those wanting to install their own system contact the ATC on 842121.

BEYOND THE VALLEY

VOTING GREEN

Green energy has received a big boost in San Francisco, where voters have given an overwhelming 73% approval at the ballot box to a plan for the city to raise \$100 million for renewables. The vote gives the go ahead to a new bond issue for the specific purpose of funding green energy. \$50 million will go on solar alone, setting San Francisco on the way to becoming potentially the largest single producer of solar energy in the US.

WIND TAKES OFF

The Horns Rev wind farm off the coast of Denmark will come on line in April with a generating capacity of 160MW – four times larger than anything seen so far. Projects in the pipeline for Northern Europe as a whole amount to more than 5000MW (currently there is only 86 MW of offshore wind capacity in the seas of the region) and the industry is confidently predicting that, given political support, it could provide up to two thirds of Europe's electricity needs by 2020.

• *Positive green news snippets like these and excellent articles are available every two months in Green Futures published by Forum for the Future and on sale at the ATC's Green Shop for £3.95.*

HEDGELAYING

Last month the ATC ran an extremely popular course in hedgelaying during which we managed to complete a quarter of the planned hedge at Salem Fields. Because it was such a success (and because we have three quarters left to do!) we want to do it all over again. So, anyone out there who would like to learn the timeless art of hedgelaying, now is your chance. Our plan is to finish the rest of the hedge through a number of courses over the next few years starting this autumn, 2002. We will gradually lay the hedge to minimise disturbance to wildlife & to pass skills on to as many people interested as possible. We are also seeking assistance with funding for these courses. Please get in touch if you can help.

• Contact Susy on (01422) 842121 for further information.

VOLUNTEER VACANCY

The ATC has an exciting volunteer opportunity and is looking for someone to join us as soon as possible. The vacancy is for someone to act as a general maintenance manager within the Centre. This person should have confidence in technical matters and also be able to take on general repair / DIY duties throughout the building. In addition, this person will be able to help us make educational and demonstration models for the Centre. Hours / days are negotiable but we would expect a minimum of half a day per week. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Fred on 842121 or email him at fred@alternativetechnology.org.uk

A to Z of Recycling

This month's selection from our A to Z of Recycling (soon to be available in full on the ATC website) looks at C for.....

Cans – aluminium & steel cans - wash, flatten, take to a recycling point. Some take mixed aluminium and steel, some require them to be separated. There are 33 aluminium can recycling points in Calderdale. Ring Calderdale Council for a free, up to date list. Doorstep recyclers, Kerbside, collect cans – see Collections.

Cardboard – flatten, remove staples and packaging and take to your nearest collection point – the council will tell you where this is. Shredded and scrunched cardboard can also be added to your compost heap – see Compost below.

Charity shops – recycling at it's best! Take any unwanted clothes etc to your local shop –

make sure you close the loop by also buying recycled (ie secondhand). Some will arrange collections.

Christmas Trees - Buy a fake tree to use year after year (no needles all over your carpet either!). If buying a real tree, buy a UK grown tree – preferably with roots so that you can plant it out after Christmas. If you want to dispose of your tree, phone your recycling officer to find out about collection points.

Copper – pipes, tanks and wire can all be recycled – contact Kerbside for details of collection points and house to house collections.

Collections – Kerbside has a weekly collection of recyclable materials (glass, paper, metals etc) from households in and around Hebden Bridge.

Computers and IT equipment – contact community on 01422 843792 or the Skillsgap (at Java Lounge) on 845740. For further info refer to the DTT's website on 'Unwanted computer equipment – A guide to re-use' www.dti.gov.uk

Composting – Almost 1/3 of our domestic waste could be put back into the soil to return nutrients and energy. 27 million tonnes of

organic waste (eg tea bags and egg shells) goes to landfill each year – once it's in landfill it's deprived of oxygen and does not biodegrade. The ATC has lots of information on composting, compost bins and wormeries, as well as peat-free compost, for sale. **Cycles**- advertise an unwanted bike in your local paper or find local bike shops in the Yellow Pages. You can get bikes repaired at Cyclegear in Sowerby Bridge 831676 or Dougie Mansfield's in Myholmsroyd on 884397. Or cut someone's trek to collect water / food by 3 hours a day in a developing country by donating your bike to ReCycle - Tel 01206 382 207.

• *If you have any suggestions or amendments for our A to Z please send them to Sharon at the ATC, tel. 842121 or e-mail sharon@alternativetechnology.org.uk*

Key Contacts:

- Kerbside Tel. 881110
- Calderdale Council Recycling Officer Tel. 392385



John Morrison

A Sideways Look

A License to Kill

BANNING FOX-HUNTING IS TO LABOUR WHAT HOUSEWORK IS TO ME. We know these things have to be done, but there always seem to be more important things to do first. For the government that means being beastly to foreigners and driving another nail into the coffin of the NHS. For me that means going to the pub.

Every time fox-hunting gets onto the parliamentary agenda, more important issues take precedence. And, as issues go, maybe hunting isn't quite as critical as, say, war in Afghanistan, or the imminence of war in the Middle East. Even within the animal welfare movement there are more pressing issues. Why cut up rough about fox-hunting, which kills only a few foxes, when we mistreat animals on a truly industrial scale, in our farms and laboratories and abattoirs? Well, I feel this cruel and anachronistic 'sport' does need tackling, and there's no time like the present.

For years the government has promised to ban fox-hunting. Then someone pointed out that a person who could dress up in a pink jacket and ride around the country was perfectly capable of putting a cross on a ballot paper. So instead of an outright ban, we're now being sold the idea of licensing fox hunts. What a cowardly cop-out. A humane fox hunt is an absurd oxymoron. What are we going to have:

an 'acceptable' level of brutality? It makes no more sense than getting cannibals to eat with a knife and fork.

Where I was born and raised, near Otley, the hunt was a familiar and colourful spectacle. But even as a young lad I realised there was more to it than just chasing a fox. These people were riding roughshod - in the most literal sense - over the countryside. Even gardens like ours (my dad used to get apoplectic about the hoofmarks in his lawn). Fences were no barrier. The message was unequivocal: "The countryside belongs to us"...

What particularly grates - with me, anyway - is the dishonesty of the hunting lobby. On the one hand they insist that hunting with hounds is the most efficient and humane way to cull foxes. On the other hand they try to mollify the animal lovers by suggesting that most foxes get away. Hunters can't have it both ways. If what they say is true, then they aren't merely bloodthirsty... they're bloodthirsty and inefficient. Could anyone devise a less effective method of culling wild animals than riding over hill and dale, with a pack of hounds? It's a nonsense.

The apologists for hunting say they are engaging in a dance of death with a worthy quarry. In regarding the fox as an adversary - not just vermin, like a rat - they are trying to elevate the whole sordid business into a noble

contest. They paint a picture of hunting as a cohesive social activity that binds country people together.

"If these animals weren't hunted", they insist, "the delicate ecological balance would be upset. We are conservationists. We love foxes..." Come on guys, let's have the truth. "...And the way we express our love for these fascinating animals is by hunting them down and killing them."

Ah, that's more like it. "OK, it's a fair cop. We are bloodthirsty people. It is our delight, at weekends, to chase small mammals to the point of exhaustion, then let the dogs tear them limb from limb. That's the bit we like best, not the riding, or the stirrup cup at the Fox and Hounds".

Fox hunting is not a suitable pastime, in the year 2002, for sentient adults who still have their frontal lobes intact. Let's be in no doubt: there are many other kinds of hunting for horsey folk to enjoy, that do not have the death of an animal at their heart. It would be good for the morale of flagging Labour supporters, like me, to see the government grasp this particular nettle. Not merely on the basis of whether or not it's a vote-winner... but simply because it's the right thing to do.

Green Avenger - Mike Bryson

